

FBS32 - GlobalFiler™ Data Analysis Using STRmix™

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1. Scope

- 1.1. This method describes the process by which GlobalFiler™ data generated from Applied Biosystems GeneMapper® ID-X Software (GMID-X) is entered into STRmix™.
- 1.2. For comparison of GlobalFiler™ reference samples to Identifiler Plus evidence data, refer to FBS25 Identifiler Plus Data Analysis Using STRmix™.

2. Background

- 2.1. STRmix™ is a probabilistic genotyping system based on a biological model, statistical theory and computer algorithms. Probabilistic genotyping is a tool used to assist the DNA analyst in the interpretation of DNA typing results. STRmix™ uses a fully continuous approach to interpret DNA profiles including mixture deconvolution. The software can compare reference DNA profiles to casework profiles to generate a measure of weight of the evidence

(likelihood ratio) in relation to a pair of propositions or it can perform mixture deconvolutions if there are no reference DNA profiles to compare.

3. Safety

- 3.1. Not applicable

4. Materials Required

- 4.1. GeneMapper® ID-X Software, version 1.6
- 4.2. STRmix™ Software, version 2.4
- 4.3. Windows-based computer capable of running the software

5. Standards and Controls

- 5.1. Not applicable

6. Procedures

- 6.1. Software running options
 - 6.1.1. STRmix™ analysis can occur on the analysts' personal desktop computer or by connecting to the server.
 - 6.1.1.1. For single source, 2-person, 3-person and 4-person mixtures, run STRmix™ on a personal desktop computer.

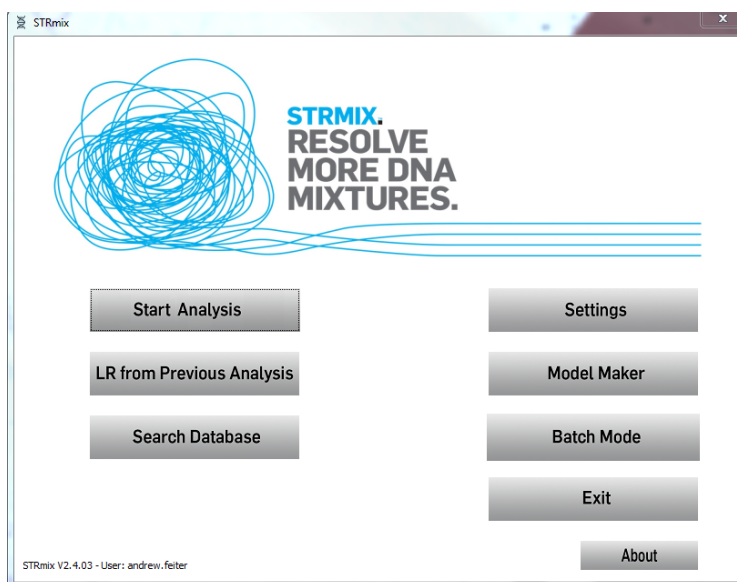
NOTE: The maximum number of MCMC chains which can be run should match the maximum number of available cores on the computer.
 - 6.1.1.2. For 5-person mixtures or samples which will not run on a personal desktop computer, run STRmix™ by connecting to the server.

NOTE: The maximum number of chains which can be run on the server is 8. Server run settings are defaulted to 8 chains. Chains may be decreased from 8 to 4 in multiples of 2. Refer to section 6.3.5.1.

NOTE: All five person mixtures will be run in low memory mode. Refer to section 6.3.5.2 for how to enable Low Memory mode.

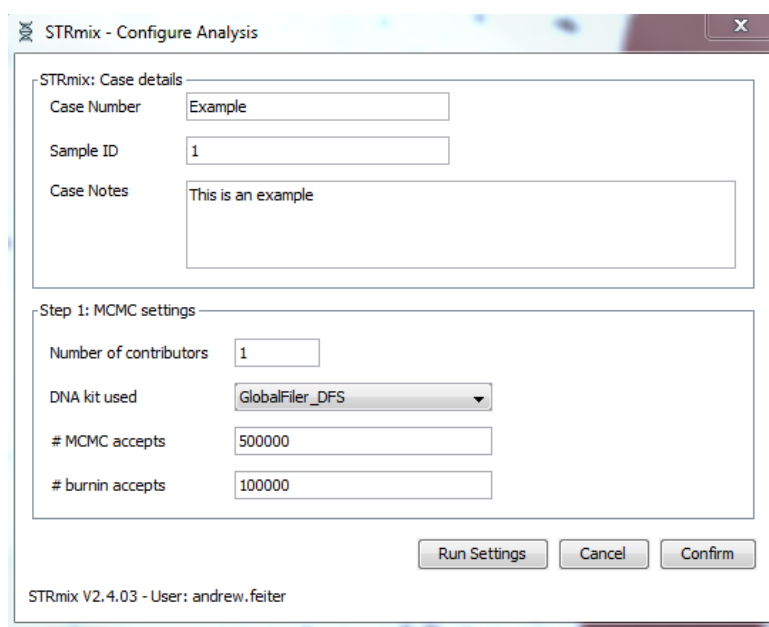
6.2. Launching STRmix™

- 6.2.1. Open the STRmix™ software by locating STRmix™ in the task bar or by double clicking on the STRmix™ icon located on the desktop. Either action will display the STRmix™ main menu (see diagram below).



6.3. Starting Analysis

- 6.3.1. Select **Start Analysis** to open the Configure Analysis window (see diagram below).



- 6.3.2. Complete Case Number and Sample ID information in the Case details section. **NOTE:** Additional case notes may be entered into the Case Notes section.
- 6.3.3. Enter Number of contributors and confirm that the correct DNA kit (e.g., Globalfiler_DFS) is selected. **NOTE:** See FBS31 GlobalFiler™ Interpretation to determine the number of contributors.
- 6.3.4. Verify that the number of MCMC accepts = 500000 and the number of burnin accepts = 100000.

NOTE: For single source samples with good peak heights and where variability is expected to be extremely low, the analyst may lower the number of MCMC and Burnin accepts (iterations) to 50,000 and 10,000, respectively.

NOTE: To increase the value of MCMC accepts and Burnin accepts see section 6.9.2.

6.3.5. Acceptable Modifications to Run Settings

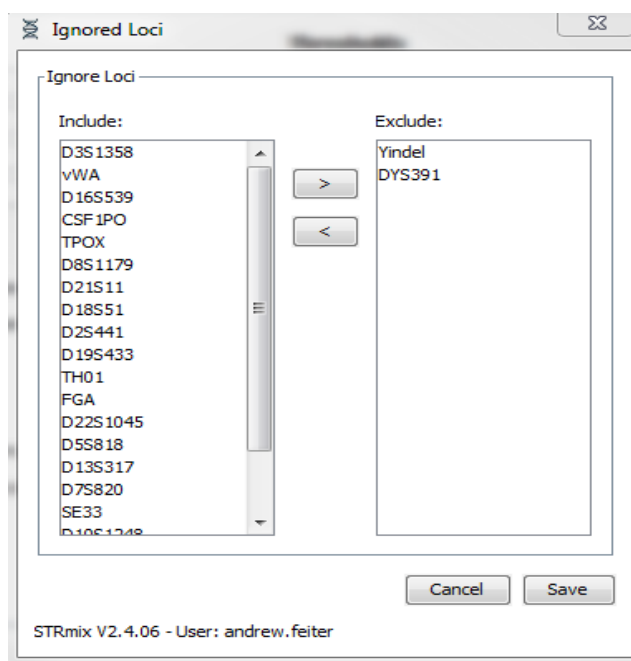
6.3.5.1. For samples that are run on the server (see section 6.1.1.2), verify that the number of MCMC chains is 8 by selecting **Run Settings** from the STRmix Configure Analysis screen. Confirm the number of chains. Proceed with the subsequent steps.

6.3.5.2. Default settings for the server(s) are to run all samples in "Low Memory Mode". If a sample needs to be run without this setting, select Run Settings from the STRmix Configure Analysis screen and deselect "Low Memory Mode" (picture below). Select Save. Proceed with the subsequent steps.

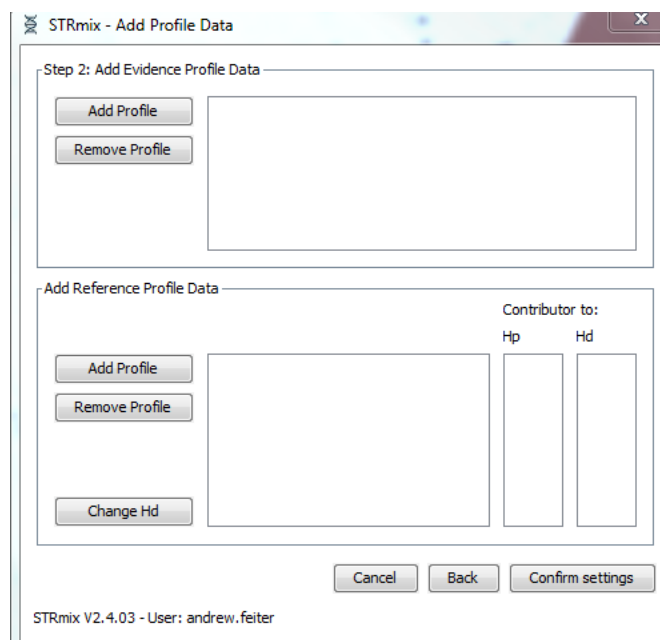
The screenshot shows the 'STRmix - Run Settings' dialog box. It contains several sections: 'Variance' with fields for Allelic, Stutter, Locus Amp, and Var > mode; 'Degradation' with fields for max and start; 'Drop-in' with fields for cap, frequency, and gamma; 'Thresholds' with fields for Detection, Saturation, Stutter, and Forward stutter; 'MCMC' with a field for Number of chains and checkboxes for Low Memory Mode and Extended Output; and 'Seed' with a checked 'Random' checkbox and a seed value field. The 'Low Memory Mode' checkbox is highlighted with a red box. The 'Save' button is at the bottom right.

- 6.3.5.3. To ignore a locus for a single analysis, select **Run Settings** from the STRmix™ Configure Analysis screen. Once the above screen (Run Settings) has appeared select the button labeled “Ignore Loci”. Once the below screen appears (Ignored Loci) select any locus which will be ignored for this analysis and move it from the “Include” box to the “Exclude” box using the arrows located between the two boxes. Select **Save**, then **Save** again, then continue to step 6.3.6.

NOTE: The Yindel and DYS391 loci will always be located in the box labeled “Exclude”; do not move them to the “Include” box.

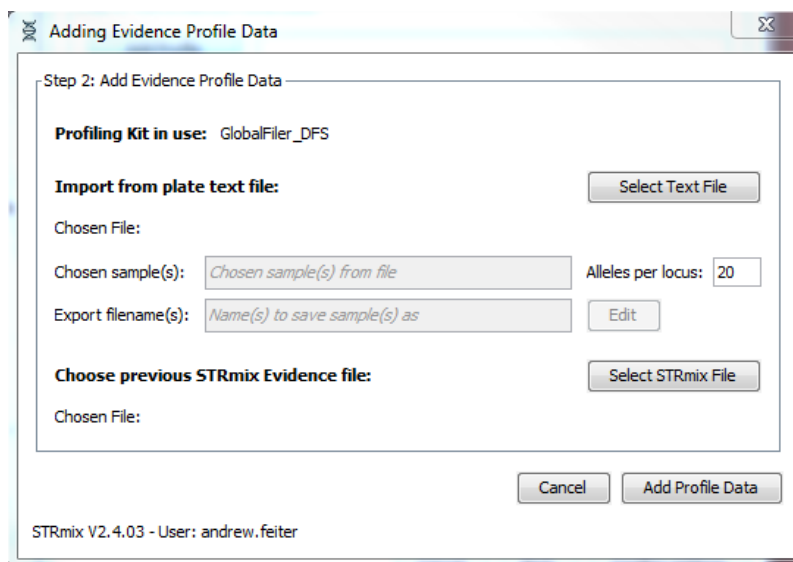


- 6.3.6. Select **Confirm** on the Configure Analysis screen to proceed to the Add Profile Data window or **Cancel** to return to the Startup screen.
- 6.3.7. In the Add Profile Data window (see diagram below), select **Add Profile** from the “Step 2: Add Evidence Profile Data” section.
- 6.3.7.1. **NOTE:** Four and five person mixture samples require replicate evidence profile files. Multiple text files can be chosen individually or at once.



- 6.3.8. In the Adding Evidence Profile Data window (see diagram below), select **Select Text File** to enter an evidence input file. Navigate to the applicable folder and select the file which contains the desired evidence profile for interpretation. The “Choose Profile Samples” box will appear listing all items contained within the text file. Select the evidence profile you wish to analyze and click **Add** and then **Add Profile Data**. **NOTE:** See FBS39 GlobalFiler™ Data Analysis Using GeneMapper® ID-X v1.6 for instructions on how to create a text file.

NOTE: The "drag and drop" feature may also be used to add EPGs in the Add Profile Data window above.



- 6.3.8.1. For a single source sample with an associated reference sample, conducting a deconvolution is not necessary. Proceed to step 6.3.9 to add the reference sample.
- 6.3.8.2. For mixtures with an associated reference sample(s) and no assumption of contributor(s) (e.g., no conditioning), conduct a deconvolution (no calculation of an LR) prior to entering any reference(s) into STRmix™. Click **Confirm Settings** on the Add Profile Data screen and proceed to step 6.3.11.1.
- 6.3.8.3. For mixtures with an associated reference sample(s) in which assumed contributor(s) will be conditioned upon, proceed to step 6.3.9 to add the assumed contributor reference sample(s).
- 6.3.8.4. If conducting a deconvolution on mixtures without an associated reference sample(s) click **Confirm Settings** on the Add Profile Data screen then proceed to step 6.3.11.1.
- 6.3.9. To add a reference sample select **Add Profile** from the “Add Reference Profile Data” section of the Add Profile Data window.
- 6.3.10. In the Adding Reference Profile Data window, select **Select Text File** to enter a reference input file. Navigate to the applicable folder and select the file which contains the desired reference profile. The “Choose Profile Samples” box will appear listing all items contained within the text file. Select the reference profile you wish to analyze and click **Add** and then **Add Profile Data**.
 - 6.3.10.1. If conducting an LR for a single source sample, ensure that the Hd column is not marked with an X. Select **Confirm settings**.
 - 6.3.10.2. If conducting a mixture deconvolution (no calculation of an LR) and there is an assumed contributor reference sample, condition the assumed contributor by highlighting the input file then select **Change Hd** so that both Hp and Hd are marked with an X (see diagram below). Select **Confirm settings**.

STRmix - Add Profile Data

Step 2: Add Evidence Profile Data

Add Profile Remove Profile

14-01524-TISSUE_01_B02_3500A.hid.csv

Add Reference Profile Data

Add Profile Remove Profile

SEW_B11_3500A.hid.csv

Contributor to:

	Hp	Hd
	X	X

Change Hd

Cancel Back Confirm settings

STRmix V1.0 - User: andrew.feiter

6.3.11. From the Population Settings window (see diagram below), select the appropriate populations from the drop down menu.

STRmix - Population Settings

Step 3: Population Settings

GlobalFiler_AfAm_FBIextended Add Population Remove Population

Population	Proportion	FST	Allele Freq File
GlobalFiler_AfAm_FBIext...	0.25	0.01b(1.0,1.0)	GlobalFiler_AfAm_FBIext...
GlobalFiler_Cauc_FBIext...	0.25	0.01b(1.0,1.0)	GlobalFiler_Cauc_FBIext...
GlobalFiler_SEHISP_FBI...	0.25	0.01b(1.0,1.0)	GlobalFiler_SEHISP_FBI...
GlobalFiler_SWHISP_FBI...	0.25	0.01b(1.0,1.0)	GlobalFiler_SWHISP_FBI...

Range

Profiles originates from 2 to 2 contributors

☐ Use MLE for contributor # under Hp and Hd ☒ Stratify contributor #

Factor N!

☒ Display Factor of N! LR

Use informed Mx priors

☐ User informed Mx priors

Sampling Variation

☒ Calculate HPD ☒ Include MCMC uncertainty

HPD iterations: 1000 Quantile: 99 Sides: 1

Save as default Cancel Back Start Start & Search

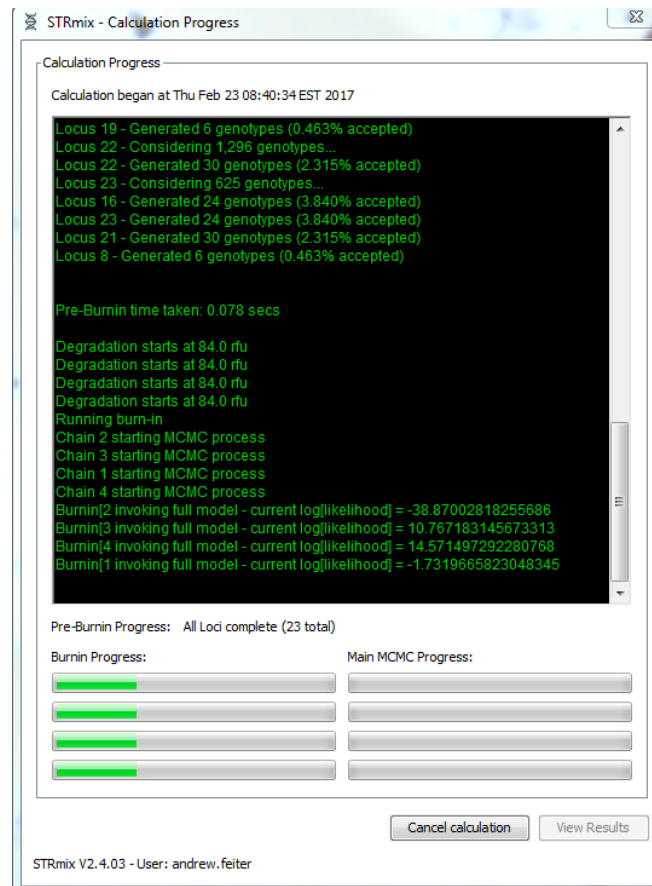
STRmix V2.4.03 - User: andrew.feiter

- 6.3.11.1. If performing a mixture deconvolution without a reference standard, the Population Settings are inaccessible (grayed out). Select **Start** to continue and proceed to step 6.3.12.

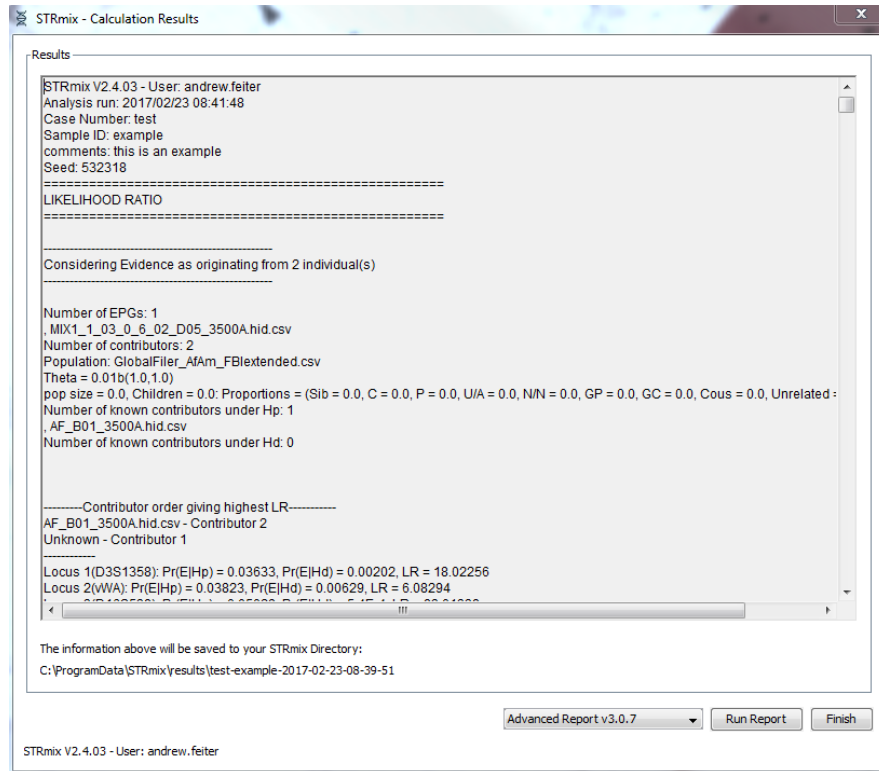
NOTE: With the exception of the User informed Mx priors option, all other settings on the Population Settings screen are default and shall not change. The User informed Mx priors option can only be selected with approval from the Technical Leader.

- 6.3.11.2. The four default populations for the DFS_GlobalFiler are GlobalFiler_AfAm_FBIextended, GlobalFiler_Cauc_FBIextended, GlobalFiler_SEHISP_FBIextended and GlobalFiler_SWHISP_FBIextended.

- 6.3.12. Select **Start** and the Calculation Progress screen will appear (see diagram below). **NOTE:** In the Population Settings window, you may select **Cancel** to return to the Startup screen or **Back** to go to the previous window.

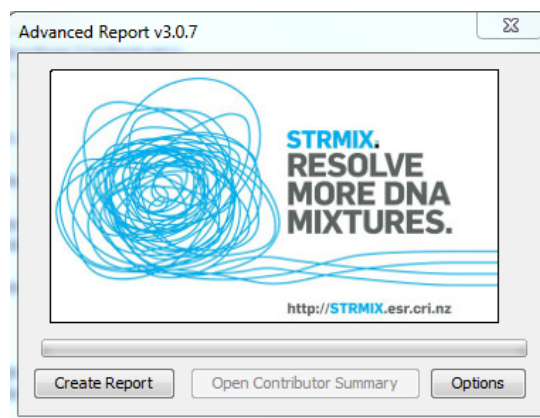


- 6.3.13. Upon completion of the calculation, a summary of the analysis results will be generated and appear automatically (see diagram below).



6.4. Advanced Report

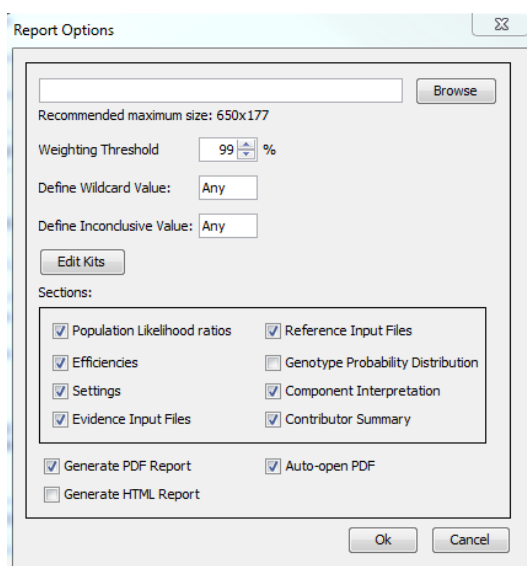
- 6.4.1. Select **Run Report** to view the Advanced Report.
- 6.4.2. Once the Advanced Report window opens, select **Options** to ensure the Report Options default settings are correct (see diagram below).



6.4.3. Displayed below are the Report Options default settings.

6.4.3.1. **NOTE:** If using the server, the Report Options default settings are the same as below; however, the “Auto-open PDF” option should be unselected. Ensure the “Auto-open PDF” option is unselected.

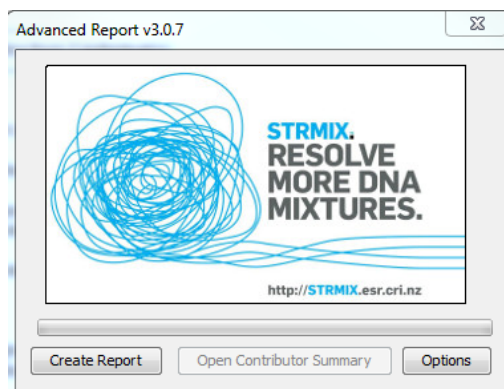
6.4.3.2. **NOTE:** Do not alter the default settings.



NOTE: The designation of “Any” in the Component Interpretation section of the Advanced Report indicates that the weighting threshold has not been met during the deconvolution process.

6.4.4. Select **Ok** to return to the Advanced Report window.

6.4.5. Once the Advanced Report window opens, select **Create Report** (see diagram below) and save the report to an appropriate location.

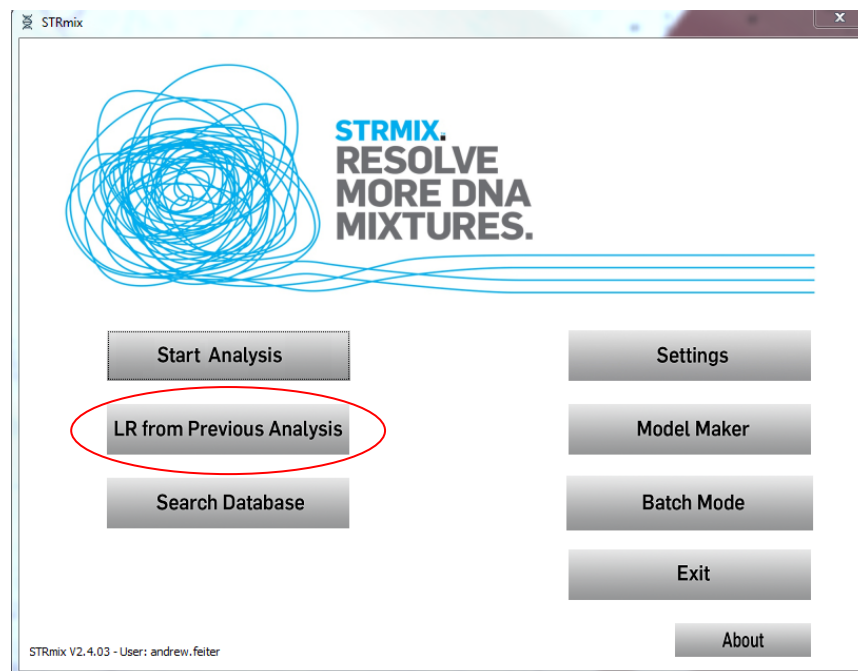


- 6.4.6. Print the PDF Advanced Report. **NOTE:** Two versions of the Advanced Report will be saved to the appropriate location. Print the **non**-“AllSections.pdf” version (see diagram below).

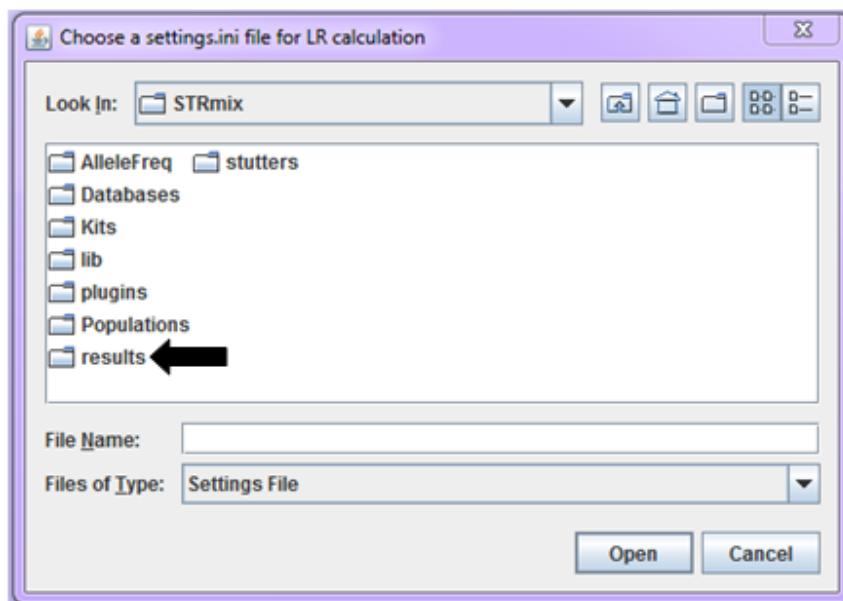
Name	Date modified
1000D_1001D_1_0_R2.csv	1/5/2016 2:31 PM
1001D_1000D_1_15_R2.csv	1/5/2016 2:30 PM
1001D_1000D_1_15_R2.csv_GenotypePDF...	1/5/2016 2:32 PM
1001D_1000D_1_15_R2.csv_Results.txt	1/5/2016 2:32 PM
DFS_AfAm_Identifier.csv	1/5/2016 2:31 PM
DFS_Cauc_Identifier.csv	1/5/2016 2:31 PM
DFS_Hisp_Identifier.csv	1/5/2016 2:31 PM
Settings.ini	1/5/2016 2:31 PM
StutterExceptions.ini	1/5/2016 2:31 PM
Stutters.ini	1/5/2016 2:31 PM
Test-Test 1.pdf	1/5/2016 2:33 PM
Test-Test 1_AllSections.pdf	1/5/2016 2:33 PM
Test-Test 1_ContributorSummary.csv	1/5/2016 2:33 PM

6.5. LR from Previous Deconvolutions

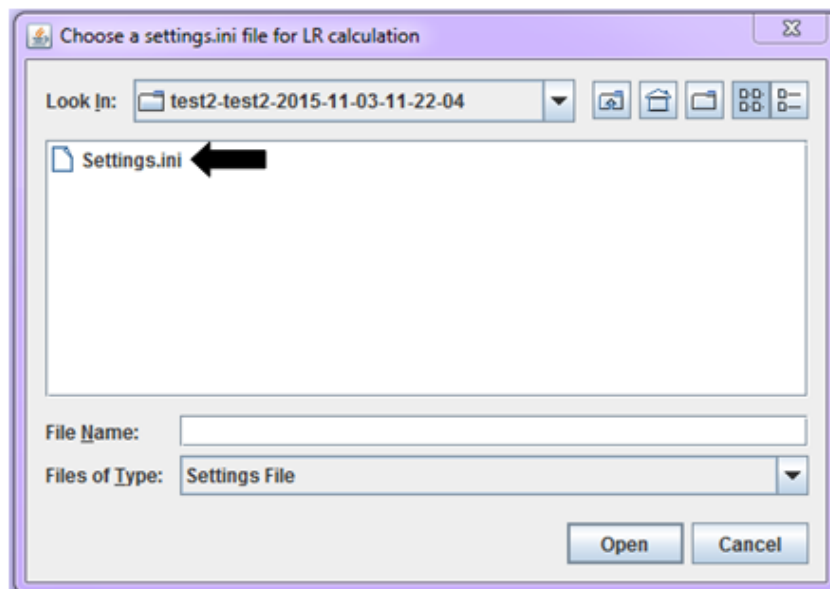
- 6.5.1. To perform an LR from previous for mixture deconvolutions, select **LR from Previous Analysis** from the STRmix™ main menu (see diagram below).



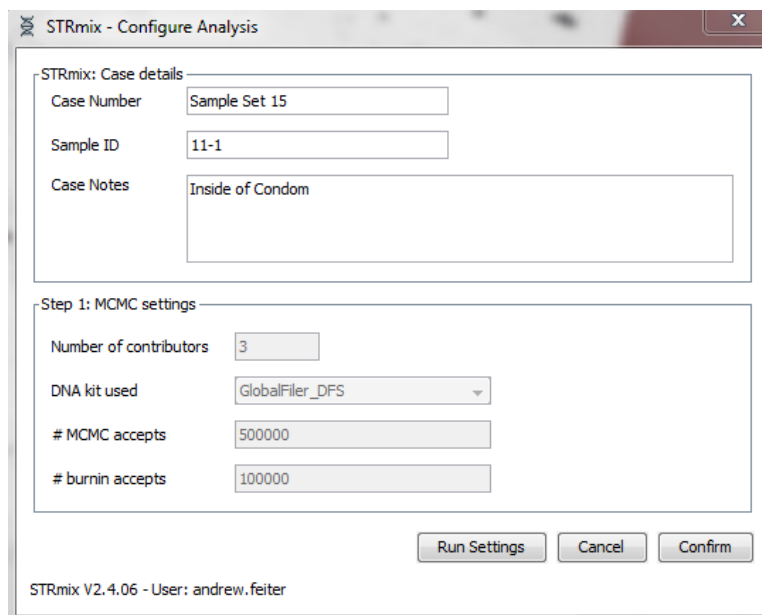
- 6.5.2. Open the Results folder and navigate to the appropriate results folder from the deconvolution of interest (see diagram below).



- 6.5.3. Open the Settings.ini file (see diagram below).



- 6.5.4. Ensure that the correct file was opened then select **Confirm** in the STRmix™ window to proceed (see diagram below). **NOTE:** Additional case notes may be entered into the Case Notes section.



STRmix - Configure Analysis

STRmix: Case details

Case Number: Sample Set 15

Sample ID: 11-1

Case Notes: Inside of Condom

Step 1: MCMC settings

Number of contributors: 3

DNA kit used: GlobalFiler_DFS

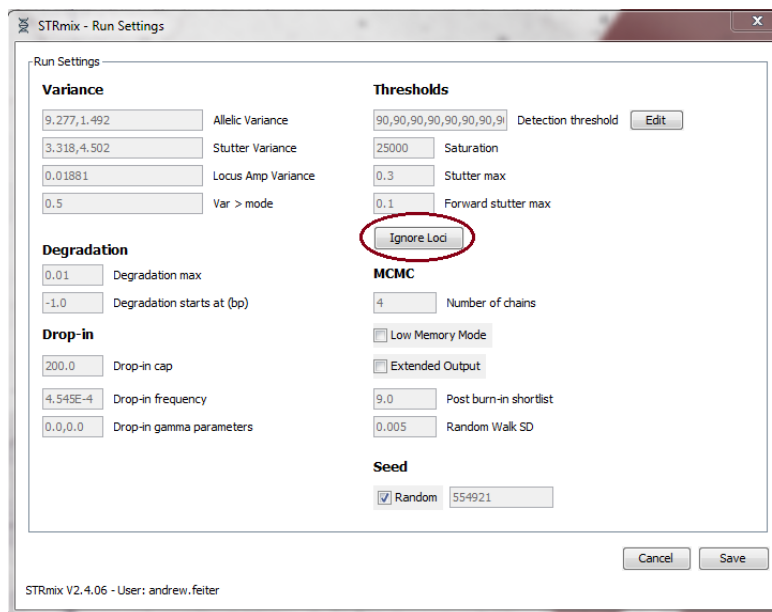
MCMC accepts: 500000

burnin accepts: 100000

Run Settings Cancel Confirm

STRmix V2.4.06 - User: andrew.feiter

- 6.5.4.1. To ignore a locus for a “LR from Previous” analysis, select Run Settings from the STRmix™ Configure Analysis screen (see above). Once the below screen (Run Settings) has appeared select the button labeled “Ignore Loci”.



STRmix - Run Settings

Run Settings

Variance

9.277, 1.492 Allelic Variance

3.318, 4.502 Stutter Variance

0.01881 Locus Amp Variance

0.5 Var > mode

Degradation

0.01 Degradation max

-1.0 Degradation starts at (bp)

Drop-in

200.0 Drop-in cap

4.545E-4 Drop-in frequency

0.0, 0.0 Drop-in gamma parameters

Thresholds

90, 90, 90, 90, 90, 90, 90, 90 Detection threshold Edit

25000 Saturation

0.3 Stutter max

0.1 Forward stutter max

Ignore Loci

MCMC

4 Number of chains

Low Memory Mode

Extended Output

9.0 Post burn-in shortlist

0.005 Random Walk SD

Seed

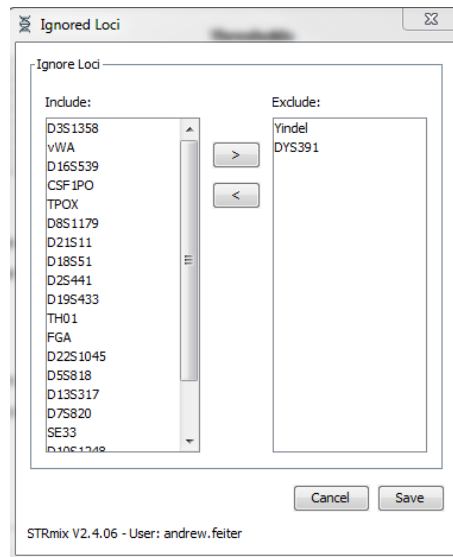
Random 554921

Cancel Save

STRmix V2.4.06 - User: andrew.feiter

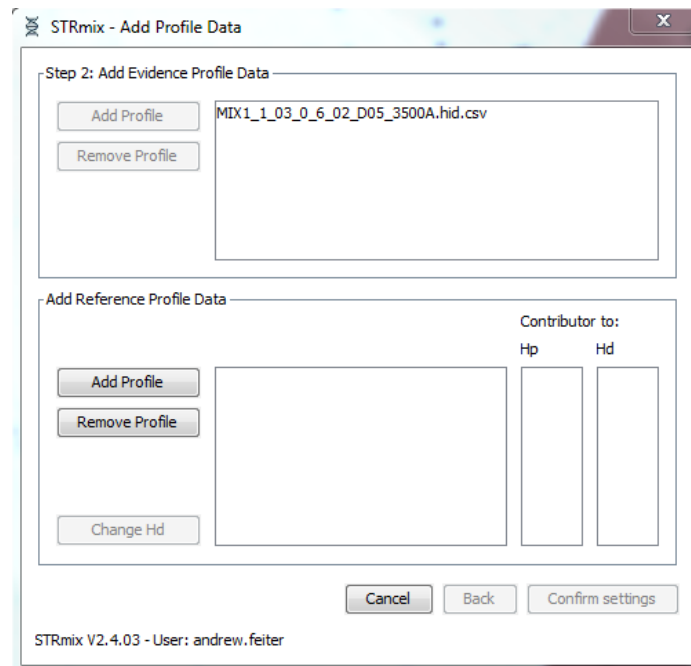
- 6.5.4.2. Once the below screen appears (Ignored Loci) select any locus which will be ignored for this analysis and move it from the “Include” box to the “Exclude” box using the arrows located between the two boxes. Select **Save**, then **Save**

again, then select **Confirm** on the Configure Analysis screen.



NOTE: When navigating screens in “LR from Previous”, certain boxes will be inaccessible (grayed out). In addition, the Yindel and DYS391 loci will always be located in the box labeled “Exclude”; do not move them to the “Include” box.

- 6.5.5. Add references. **NOTE:** The Add Evidence Profile Data section will be inaccessible (grayed out) (see diagram below). See sections 6.3.9 and 6.3.10 to add references then proceed with the subsequent steps.



6.5.5.1. The entering of multiple Persons of Interest (POI's) into STRmix™ will be case dependent. For example, when two or more POI's are included in a mixture, typically the POI's would be run through STRmix™ together, then each run individually. For instances when multiple scenarios are run through STRmix™, include all Advanced Reports in the case file and report the scenario that most accurately describes the results.

6.5.5.1.1. Repeat steps 6.3.9 and 6.3.10 to add additional references.

6.5.5.2. If there are multiple references in which assumed contributor(s) will be conditioned upon, the assumed contributor(s) will be input first. Condition the assumed contributor (s) by highlighting the input file then selecting **Change Hd** so that both Hp and Hd are marked with an X (see diagram below). Select **Confirm settings**.

STRmix - Add Profile Data

Step 2: Add Evidence Profile Data

Add Profile Remove Profile

14-01524-TISSUE_01_B02_3500A.hid.csv

Add Reference Profile Data

Add Profile Remove Profile

SEW_B11_3500A.hid.csv
AF_B01_3500A.hid.csv

Change Hd

Contributor to:

	Hp	Hd
SEW_B11_3500A.hid.csv	X	X
AF_B01_3500A.hid.csv	X	

Cancel Back Confirm settings

STRmix V1.0 - User: andrew.feiter

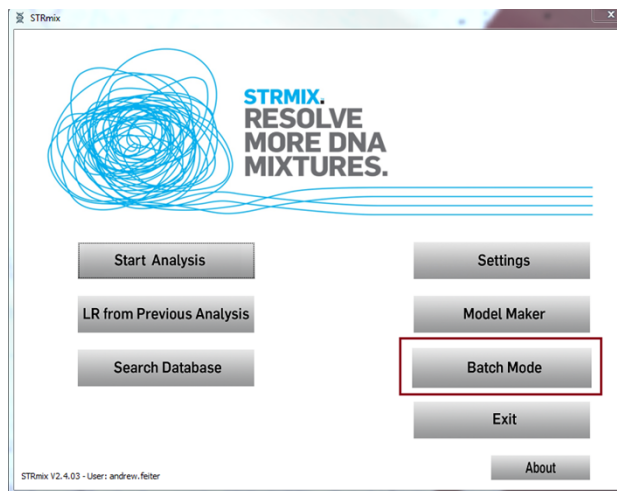
6.6. Multiple STRmix™ analyses

- 6.6.1. Each time a profile is run through STRmix™ analysis, the results will vary slightly. In order to be as unbiased as possible, STRmix™ analysis of a single profile should only be conducted once, with those results being reported unless troubleshooting is needed.

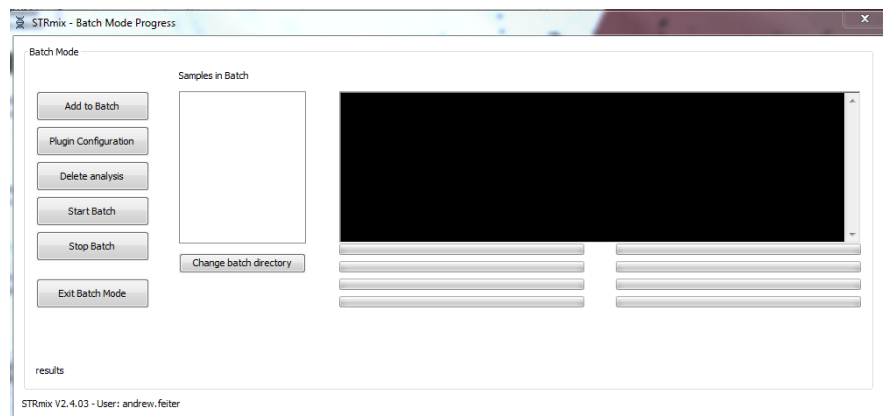
6.7. Batch Mode STRmix™ analyses

- 6.7.1. A number of STRmix™ analyses can be set up and queued to run sequentially.

- 6.7.1.1. To set up a queued analysis for multiple samples, select **Batch Mode** from the STRmix™ main window (see diagram below).



- 6.7.1.2. Select **Add to Batch** from the Batch Mode window (see diagram below) to open the Sample Summary window.



- 6.7.1.3. Complete the analysis set up for the first sample following steps 6.3.2 through 6.3.10.
- 6.7.1.4. In the Population Settings window, select **Start** to return to the Batch Mode window.
- 6.7.1.5. In the Batch Mode window, select **Add to Batch** to enter the next sample. Repeat steps 6.7.1.3 through 6.7.1.4 to add additional samples.

NOTE: To remove a sample from the batch mode, highlight the case/sample in the Samples in Batch section of the Batch Mode window then select **Delete analysis**.

- 6.7.1.6. Select **Start Batch** to start the batch run.
- 6.7.1.7. After completion of analyses, select **Exit Batch Mode** to return to the STRmix™ main window.

NOTE: Each of the analysis details will be saved to the designated default location.

6.8. Reviewing STRmix™ Data

6.8.1. In the Advanced Report, reviewers should check:

6.8.1.1. Summary of Input Data:

- 6.8.1.1.1. The correct number of contributors has been selected.
- 6.8.1.1.2. The correct input file(s) has been selected.
- 6.8.1.1.3. The correct conditioning has been made for assumed contributors, if applicable.

6.8.1.2. Parameters:

- 6.8.1.2.1. The correct settings have been used.

6.8.1.3. Primary Run Diagnostics:

- 6.8.1.3.1. The mixture proportions under the “Summary of Contributors” appear correct when compared to the EPG(s).

6.8.1.3.2. The weightings and genotype combinations found in the “Component Interpretation” conform to qualitative expectations and add up to 100% (or close to 100%) for each locus.

6.8.1.3.3. NOTE: Locus genotype weightings for high proportion or assumed contributors that do not add up to 100% (or close to 100%) may indicate issues with the overall run. Consult with the Technical Leader to evaluate the next appropriate steps if this occurs.

6.8.1.4. Secondary Run Diagnostics (Run Information):

6.8.1.4.1. Check the total number of iterations. The value displayed indicates the total number of post-burn in iterations that the MCMC has run during its analysis. A run with the total number of iterations greater than 2.15 billion should not be used for interpretation. Consult with the Technical Leader to evaluate the next appropriate steps if this occurs.

6.8.1.4.2. Check the acceptance rate. The total number of iterations, along with the number of accepts chosen for analysis can inform the user as to how often a new proposed set of parameters was accepted. This is referred to as the acceptance rate. The acceptance rate is calculated by dividing the number of post burn-in accepts by the total number of iterations.

For example, if total iterations = 4,505,505; burn-in accepts = 100,000; and total accepts = 500,000, the acceptance rate calculation would be as follows:

$$400,000/4,505,505 = 0.088 \text{ or } 1 \text{ in } 11.3.$$

A very low acceptance rate (e.g., 1 in thousands to millions) may, in combination with the other diagnostics, indicate that the analysis needs to be run for additional iterations.

NOTE: On its own (and without any other indication of sub-optimal results), a low

acceptance rate is not an indication that rework is required.

- 6.8.1.4.3. Check the effective sample size. Effective sample size (ESS) is the number of independent samples the MCMC has taken from the posterior distribution of all parameters. A low ESS in relation to the total number of iterations suggests that the MCMC has not moved very far with each step or has had a low acceptance rate. A low ESS value (e.g., 10s or 100s) means that there is potential for a large difference in weights if the analysis was run again. ESS is used by STRmix™ in the calculation of the LR with HPD (unless the genotype sets are completely resolved on a single combination, in which case there will be no effect of ESS on the HPD interval).

NOTE: On its own (and without any other indication of sub-optimal results), a low ESS is not an indication that rework is required.

- 6.8.1.4.4. Check the average log (likelihood). This value shows the average \log_{10} (likelihood) for the entire post burn-in MCMC. This is the log of the average likelihood (or probability) value created at each of the post burn-in MCMC iterations. The larger this value, the better STRmix™ has been able to describe the observed data. A negative value suggests that STRmix™ has not been able to describe the data very well given the information it has been provided. The following are reasons why this value may be low or negative:

6.8.1.4.4.1. The profile is simply very low level and there is very little data making up the likelihood.

6.8.1.4.4.2. The number of contributors is wrong and there are forced stochastic events in the STRmix™ run as a result (e.g., large heterozygote peak imbalances or variations in mixture proportions across the profile).

6.8.1.4.4.3. Data has been removed that was real, particularly stutter peaks, and must now be described in STRmix™ by dropout.

6.8.1.4.4.4. Artifact peaks have been left labeled and must now be accounted for in STRmix™ by drop-in.

6.8.1.4.4.5. A low or negative value for the average \log_{10} (likelihood) may indicate to users that the analysis requires additional scrutiny.

NOTE: Good quality mixed DNA profiles are likely to give higher average \log_{10} (likelihood) values than good quality single source profiles; therefore, low average \log_{10} (likelihood) values alone are not necessarily an indicator of an issue.

6.8.1.4.5. Check the Gelman-Rubin convergence diagnostic value. This diagnostic informs the user whether the MCMC analysis has likely converged. If this value is above 1.2 then it is possible that the analysis has not converged. Refer to the troubleshooting section 6.9.2.

6.8.1.4.6. Check the allele variance and stutter variance. Both of these values are the average value for allele variance and stutter variance constants across the entire post burn-in MCMC analysis. These values can be used as a guide as to the level of stochastic variation in peak heights that is present in the profile.

If the variance constant has increased markedly from the mode of the prior distribution, then this may indicate that the DNA profile is sub-optimal or that the number of contributors is incorrect. Refer to the Parameters section of the advanced report to obtain the mode value for comparison.

Used in conjunction with the average \log_{10} (likelihood), a large allele or stutter variance constant can indicate a poor PCR.

If the sample is simply low level this should result in a low average \log_{10} (likelihood) and an average variance constant.

If some data has been omitted, left on or misinterpreted this should result in a low average \log_{10} (likelihood) and high variances.

6.8.1.4.7. Check the degradation and locus specific amplification efficiencies (LSAE). These should conform to qualitative expectations when compared to the EPG(s).

6.8.2. For each LR calculation, reviewers should check:

6.8.2.1. Reference Input File(s):

6.8.2.1.1. The correct reference has been compared.

6.8.2.2. Summary of Input Data:

6.8.2.2.1. The correct conditioning has been made for assumed contributors, if applicable.

6.8.2.2.2. The correct hypotheses have been used.

6.8.2.3. Summary of LR and Per Locus Likelihood Ratios:

6.8.2.3.1. The LR broadly agrees with a human interpretation of assessing the potential contribution of an individual.

6.9. Troubleshooting

6.9.1. It is important for STRmix™ analysis results to be checked by examining the weightings of various genotypes and the DNA profile(s) observed. There may be instances when the results obtained do not seem intuitively correct.

6.9.1.1. The following are examples of this:

- 6.9.1.1.1. Large LR's (>1) are obtained for each locus, except one where the LR = 0 and the POI reference is consistent with the evidentiary profile.
- 6.9.1.1.2. The mixture proportions do not reflect what is observed.
- 6.9.1.1.3. The degradation does not reflect what is observed.
- 6.9.1.1.4. The interpreted contributor genotypes are not intuitively correct or the weightings in the component interpretation do not add up to 100% (or close to 100%).
- 6.9.1.2. Causes for the above examples may be due to the following:
 - 6.9.1.2.1. The MCMC has not run for enough iterations.
 - 6.9.1.2.2. The number of contributors has not been correctly chosen.
 - 6.9.1.2.3. The PCR process has been affected (e.g., inhibition).
 - 6.9.1.2.4. The software has reached a computing limitation and may not be able to reliably determine the genotype weightings for the contributors in the DNA profile.
- 6.9.1.3. Should the weights and/or diagnostics imply to the analyst that further scrutiny is required then a number of re-work options are available. For example, a review of the proposed number of contributors should be considered. Further analytical work such as a re-amplification to strengthen the number of contributors assumption or to assist with allele designation/sub-optimal PCR performance. An analyst may also increase the total number of iterations if the acceptance rate is low (section 6.8.1.4.1), the ESS is low (section 6.8.1.4.2), and/or the Gelman-Rubin value is significantly above 1.2 (sections 6.8.1.4.4 and 6.9.2).
- 6.9.2. The Gelman-Rubin Convergence Diagnostic value needs to be checked. If this value is above 1.2, STRmix™ analysis may be repeated under the same conditions or run with an increased number of MCMC and Burnin accepts (iterations) e.g., 5,000,000 and

1,000,000, respectively. Consult with Technical Leader prior to increasing number of iterations.

- 6.9.3. The total iterations and genotype weightings in the component interpretation also need to be checked. For DNA profiles with total iterations greater than 2.15 billion or genotype weightings that do not add up to 100% (or close to 100%), the re-work options listed above are not likely to improve the deconvolution. Consult with the Technical Leader to evaluate the next appropriate steps if this occurs.
 - 6.9.4. Instances may occur when the complexity of the DNA mixture being analyzed causes the computer to run slow or stop. If the run fails or a memory error occurs, the profile may need to be run on the server. If the server continues to run slow or has stopped, carefully evaluate the profile to confirm that all artifacts have been removed, an appropriate number of contributors has been estimated, whether all loci should be considered and/or whether the entire profile should be considered uninterpretable.
 - 6.9.5. If an error message is obtained from the software, it can be related to errors in the input file, lack of computer memory, or user input error during setup. Each scenario should be investigated to determine cause and make necessary adjustments. See the STRmix™ internal validation report and/or STRmix™ v2.4 User's Manual for more specific descriptions of the errors observed and their determined causes.
- 6.10. Retention of Unreported STRmix™ Runs
- 6.10.1. STRmix™ Advanced Reports will be maintained in the case file when the deconvolution ran appropriately, however, after review of the output (genotype weightings and/or diagnostics), the analyst decides to perform additional STRmix™ analyses or lab work. Examples include when review of the STRmix™ output indicates the originally assigned number of contributors may be incorrect, the decision to perform a replicate amplification, the decision to perform an additional deconvolution with increased iterations, or the decision to perform an additional deconvolution with the use of conditioning. The original STRmix™ Advanced Report will be maintained in the case file along with documentation as to why it is not being reported. **NOTE:** all results will be maintained electronically.
 - 6.10.2. If an analyst determines during review of the STRmix™ Advanced Report that the deconvolution did not run appropriately due to an input error, only the first page of that Advanced Report will be maintained in the case file with a single diagonal line strike-through and

documentation as to why it is not being used. Examples include the wrong input text file, the presence of "OL" in an input file, or a deconvolution performed without a correctly assumed contributor.

NOTE: all results will be maintained electronically.

7. Sampling

- 7.1. Not applicable

8. Calculations

- 8.1. Not applicable

9. Uncertainty of Measurement

- 9.1. Sampling uncertainty occurs due to the finite allele probabilities that are associated with the population samples being used. In STRmix™ an allowance for sampling uncertainty is implemented by adjusting the allele frequencies using a Bayesian posterior mean frequency (e.g., Highest posterior density (HPD)) to better account for sampling uncertainty with allele counts within a limited population data set.
- 9.2. The combined LR calculated by STRmix™ is referred to as a point estimate. Because the true answer is not known, a credible interval is calculated using the Highest Posterior Density (HPD) method and then applied around the point estimate. This interval accounts for the uncertainty associated with the point estimate LR. The lower bound of the HPD interval is reported from STRmix™ to be conservative to the accused or person of interest.
- 9.3. STRmix™ uses the Balding and Nichols model (NRC II recommendation 4.2) to account for uncertainty with alleles for a genotype at a locus that may be identical by descent. The use of this model allows for correction of sub-populations effects.

10. Limitations

- 10.1. STRmix™ cannot incorporate mutations such as primer binding site mutations, trisomies or somatic mutation. When these effects are present, the locus must be ignored during the profile analysis in STRmix™.
- 10.2. STRmix™ v2.4 cannot incorporate multiple EPGs generated via different STR kits into one analysis.
- 10.3. An artifact peak in the EPG will be considered as an allele or stutter event and potentially result in a false exclusion at this locus.

- 10.4. The user specified number of contributors must be the same in both the numerator and the denominator.
- 10.5. Extremely trace contributors of DNA are difficult to model. STRmix™ analysis will not be performed on profiles containing results at less than 5 autosomal loci.
- 10.6. Saturation occurs when peaks within a profile have reached the electrophoresis instrument's saturation point (e.g., an over-loaded sample). STRmix™ has a saturation setting that can account for some level of saturated data; however extreme levels of saturation are not viable for analysis. The saturation threshold for DFS laboratory's GlobalFiler™ data using the Applied Biosystems 3500/3500xl data is 25,000 rfu.

11. Documentation

- 11.1. STRmix™ Advanced Report(s)

12. References

- 12.1. STRmix™ v2.4 User's Manual (Current Version)
- 12.2. DFS STRmix™ v2.4 Internal Validation Report, Parts I and II (2016-2017).
- 12.3. DFS The Zoom Study: Additional Guidelines for Interpretation of Mixtures and Low Level Data Using Globalfiler™ on the 3500/3500xL and/or STRmix™ 2.4 (08/10/2020).
- 12.4. Balding, D.J. and R.A Nichols, DNA profile match probability calculation: how to allow for population stratification, relatedness, database selection and single bands. Forensic Science International, (1994). 64: 125-140.
- 12.5. National Research Council. The Evaluation of Forensic DNA Evidence, Washington, DC: Academy Press, 1996. (colloquially referred to as "NRC II").
- 12.6. SWGDAM Guidelines for the Validation of Probabilistic Genotyping Systems (Current Version)
- 12.7. GeneMapper®ID-X Software, User's Manual (Current Version(s)), Human Identification Analysis, Applied Biosystems.
- 12.8. Applied Biosystems GlobalFiler™ PCR Amplification Kit User Guide (current revision).

13. Appendix

13.1. STRmix™ Default Settings:

13.1.1. **NOTE:** The default settings are to remain unchanged.

STRmix - Default Settings

Default Settings

MCMC settings	Inputs and Outputs	Likelihood Ratio
4 # MCMC chains	<input type="checkbox"/> Extended Output	1000 HPD iterations
500000 MCMC accepts	20 Alleles per locus	99.0 Sig value
100000 Burnin accepts	Summary:	1 Sides
9.0 Post burn-in shortlist	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Analysis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Factor of N! LR
0.005 Random Walk SD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Include MCMC uncertainty
<input type="checkbox"/> Low Memory Mode	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parameters	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weightings	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Settings	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inputs	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interpretations	
	Default Kit: GlobalFiler_DFS	

Default Text File Directory: X:\VALIDATION\2016 Projects\Globalfiler\STRmix\VALIDATION

Default STRmix File Directory: C:\ProgramData\STRmix\results

Cancel Save

STRmix V2.4.03 - User: andrew.feiter

13.2. GlobalFiler™ Settings:

13.2.1. The GlobalFiler™ settings are to remain unchanged.

The image displays four screenshots of the STRmix v2.4.03 'Add/Edit Population' dialog box, arranged in a 2x2 grid. Each screenshot shows the configuration for a different population:

- Top Left:** Population: GlobalFiler_AfAm_FBIextended. Population Name: GlobalFiler_AfAm_FBIextended. Allele Frequency File: GlobalFiler_AfAm_FBIextended.csv. Population Proportion: 1.0. Applies to Kit: GlobalFiler_DFS. Default FST: 0.01b(1.0, 1.0). Multiplier x beta(Alpha, Beta). Relationship coefficients: Siblings (0.0), Niece/Nephew (0.0), Parents (0.0), Grandparent (0.0), Children (0.0), Grandchild (0.0), Uncle/Aunt (0.0), Cousin (0.0), Unrelated (1.0).
- Top Right:** Population: GlobalFiler_Cauc_FBIextended. Population Name: GlobalFiler_Cauc_FBIextended. Allele Frequency File: GlobalFiler_Cauc_FBIextended.csv. Population Proportion: 1.0. Applies to Kit: GlobalFiler_DFS. Default FST: 0.01b(1.0, 1.0). Multiplier x beta(Alpha, Beta). Relationship coefficients: Siblings (0.0), Niece/Nephew (0.0), Parents (0.0), Grandparent (0.0), Children (0.0), Grandchild (0.0), Uncle/Aunt (0.0), Cousin (0.0), Unrelated (1.0).
- Bottom Left:** Population: GlobalFiler_SEHISP_FBIextended. Population Name: GlobalFiler_SEHISP_FBIextended. Allele Frequency File: GlobalFiler_SEHISP_FBIextended.csv. Population Proportion: 1.0. Applies to Kit: GlobalFiler_DFS. Default FST: 0.01b(1.0, 1.0). Multiplier x beta(Alpha, Beta). Relationship coefficients: Siblings (0.0), Niece/Nephew (0.0), Parents (0.0), Grandparent (0.0), Children (0.0), Grandchild (0.0), Uncle/Aunt (0.0), Cousin (0.0), Unrelated (1.0).
- Bottom Right:** Population: GlobalFiler_SWHISP_FBIextended. Population Name: GlobalFiler_SWHISP_FBIextended. Allele Frequency File: GlobalFiler_SWHISP_FBIextended.csv. Population Proportion: 1.0. Applies to Kit: GlobalFiler_DFS. Default FST: 0.01b(1.0, 1.0). Multiplier x beta(Alpha, Beta). Relationship coefficients: Siblings (0.0), Niece/Nephew (0.0), Parents (0.0), Grandparent (0.0), Children (0.0), Grandchild (0.0), Uncle/Aunt (0.0), Cousin (0.0), Unrelated (1.0).

Each dialog box includes buttons for 'Delete Population', 'Select File', 'Edit File', 'Generate Proportions', 'Cancel', and 'Save Population'. The status bar at the bottom of each window reads 'STRmix V2.4.03 - User: andrew.feiter'.

13.4. Allele frequency files were generated and verified using the published population data from the 2015 Expanded FBI STR Population Data. These files can be found in the electronic documentation of STRmix™ v2.4 Validation Part I: Estimation of STRmix™ Parameters.

13.5. NRC II recommendation 4.2

Balding and Nichols model also known as NRC II recommendation 4.2

Heterozygote	Homozygote
$\frac{2[\theta + (1-\theta)p_i][\theta + (1-\theta)p_j]}{(1+\theta)(1+2\theta)}$	$\frac{[3\theta + (1-\theta)p_i][2\theta + (1-\theta)p_i]}{(1+\theta)(1+2\theta)}$